

## **Cam Gordon**

City Council Member Second Ward

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Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 2-27-13

Cam's next Seward Office Hours: Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Building Energy Disclosure Ordinance
- 2) Small Business Training Opportunity
- 3) Free Tax Help Available
- 4) Single-Sort Increasing Recycling Rate
- 5) Urban Scholars Program
- 6) Minnehaha Avenue Reconstruction.
- 7) Minneapolis Wins Roadmaps to Health Prize
- 8) Downtown Garbage Burner (HERC)
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) The Council has unanimously passed a new ordinance that will require all City and other public buildings over 25,000 square feet and eventually all commercial buildings over 50,000 square feet to disclose the energy performance of each building, as rated by the EPA's Portfolio Manager program. The City will share this information publicly, on our website, helping to incent commercial building owners to make energy performance upgrades in order to stay competitive. Buildings will be phased-in over time, with City buildings first, the largest commercial buildings second, and all commercial buildings over 50,000 square feet by 2016. This approach has been tried in many other cities, with considerable success. It is one of the few things that the City can do to tackle climate change at a local level. I am extremely supportive of this work, and helped develop the ordinance.
- 2) For the third year, the Minneapolis office of the Small Business Administration has been selected to offer a free intensive training course to area businesses. E200 Emerging Leaders is an intensive training initiative to accelerate growth of high potential small businesses located in America's cities. To request a letter of interest form, contact Cindy Collett at 612-370-2312 (Cynthia.Collett@sba.gov).
- 3) A nonprofit called AccountAbility Minnesota is making available free tax and financial services for low- and moderate-income people in the Twin Cities area. Places to sign up for tax clinics inlcude East Side Neighborhood Services, 1700 2<sup>nd</sup> St NE, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:45pm and Saturdays at 9am; Hope Community Center at 611 E Franklin Ave, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:45pm and Saturdays at 9am; Latino Economic Development Center, 1516 E Lake St, Ste 201, Individuals who make \$30,000 or less per year and families that make \$50,000 or less per year are eligible. For more info go to www.accountabilitymn.org or call 651-287-0187.
- 4) Minneapolis residents have dramatically increased the amount we recycle, now that one-sort recycling is rolling out across the city. Results are in for the first six weeks of one-sort recycling: the four collection routes that switched to one-sort last fall show a 63% increase in recycling over the same period a year ago, when they still used the older multi-sort process. That's 396 more tons of waste recycled. By making it easier for folks who don't use the multi-sort recycling system at all, or for those who don't recycle as much as they could, the City hopes to double the 2012 recycling rate by 2015.

- 5) The City is once again offering an internship program for college students interested in public service careers. The City is now accepting applications for the 2013 Urban Scholars program, which aims to help young people from diverse backgrounds build their skills for the future, with a focus on careers in public service. Interested students should apply online by Monday, March 25 at <a href="https://www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs/jobs\_before">www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs/jobs\_before</a>. Students who are enrolled and in good standing at a two- or four-year college or university are eligible to apply. They must also be a permanent resident of Minneapolis, although they can be attending a school anywhere, not just in Minnesota. The 12-week program is a full-time paid internship experience that runs from May 20 Aug. 9. For more information, go to <a href="https://www.minneapolismn.gov/civilrights/one/urbanscholars">www.minneapolismn.gov/civilrights/one/urbanscholars</a>.
- 6) Hennepin County will be reconstructing Minnehaha Avenue in 2014, from Lake Street to 46th Street (in addition, the City will be reconstructing from 46th to Godfrey Parkway). One of the key questions to be resolved before a final layout is approved is whether the bike facility should remain the standard bike lanes that are on Minnehaha currently, or change to a physically separated and protected "cycle track" facility. I have been very supportive of the concept of physically separated, protected bike facilities for some time. In Europe these have been found to substantially increase the percentage of trips made by bicycle, and are being installed by increasing numbers of North American cities, including New York, Chicago, Portland, Vancouver and Montreal. The current draft of the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan, which I expect to pass the Council in April, includes a recommendation that the City install a network of 30 miles of protected, separated bicycle facilities. The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee has taken a position in favor of a cycle track on Minnehaha and I am eager to see this concept realized in Minneapolis and excited to see it being so seriously considered for Minnehaha..
- 7) The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded Minneapolis their inaugural Roadmaps to Health prize. This prize celebrates Minneapolis' community-wide efforts to promote a culture of health. Minneapolis is one of only six cities to receive this prestigious award, which comes with a cash prize of \$25,000. The award honors the City for work led by the Minneapolis Health Department, including:
  - Increasing access to healthy foods, opportunities for physical activity, and smoke-free living. This
    includes all of the work of Homegrown Minneapolis; increasing the variety, quality and affordability of
    fruits and vegetables at 37 corner stores; creating healthier, more active work environments at 225
    worksites; and instituting a new smoke-free building policy at Riverside Plaza in Ward 2, home to over
    5,000 people (many of them children).
  - Connecting clinics and communities to prevent chronic disease. The Health Department worked to
    improve patient care at clinics affecting 60,000 patients, to ensure that patients receive regular
    assessments of risk factors like body mass index, nutrition, physical activity, and tobacco and alcohol
    use. After assessments, patients are now being referred to effective clinic- and community-based
    resources.
  - Making Minneapolis a leader on bicycling. This includes investments in bicycling infrastructure like bike lanes and trails, the Midtown Greenway, Nice Ride, the Midtown Bike Walk Center, Venture North Bike Walk Coffee Shop, and Spokes Bike Center. In addition, the Health Department is leading a conversation about an exciting new Northside Greenway.
  - Closing the educational achievement gap. The Northside Achievement Zone works with more than 50 organizations, including the City, to improve educational outcomes for kids on the northside, to ensure that all youth are college ready when they graduate from high school. To date, 166 families with 450 children have enrolled, with 144 families expected to join by the end of 2013.
- 8) Consideration of Hennepin County's request to increase the amount of garbage they are allowed to burn at the Energy Recovery Center/garbage burner in downtown Minneapolis might be discussed at the next Zoning and Planning Committee. At the last committee meeting the County requested to have the matter postponed until next year and the committee postponed the matter two weeks with the intention of discussing it at this week's meeting. Since that time, however, the County has withdrawn the request for an extension indicating that it is not needed because while the project is under state environmental review the City Council is prohibited from acting.
- 9) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, and Mpls Telecommunications Network. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email <a href="mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov">cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov</a>.